

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010210US1
MPS Ref. No.: IBMK10210

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 15, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 15, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-14 and 29-30 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1, 8, 14 and 29 have been amended. Claims 15-28 have been cancelled.

The Examiner states that claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner further states that claims 1-13 and 26-30 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in the Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims to place the claims in condition for allowance. The amendments were made on the basis the Examiner's reasons for allowability, as stated in the Examiner's Action dated February 15, 2005 (see, page 4, paragraph 6 of the Examiner's Action). The amendments were reviewed and approved of by the Examiner during a telephone interview with the attorney signing below, on April 6, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-13 and 26-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The present amendments are believed to address this rejection. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14 and 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ashkenazi* in view of Applicants' "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION".

The present amendments are believed to address this rejection. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-13 and 26-60 are patentable over *Ashkenazi*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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